

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, SY, CZ

SUBJECT: CHNOUPEK VISIT TO ROME

REF: ROME 12995

1. DURING BRIEF PRIVATE VISIT TO ROME SEPTEMBER 12-14, CZECHO-SLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK WAS RECEIVED, IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR, BY AN UNDERSECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO LATER HOSTED A DINNER IN HIS HONOR. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE TALKS ON BILATERAL SUBJECTS WERE RELATIVELY ROUTINE. IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE, CHNOUPEK, IN THE ITALIAN VIEW, HAD SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS REGARDING THE RECENTLY COMPLETED VISIT TO PRAGUE OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ ASAD.

2. ON THE BILATERAL FRONT, CHNOUPEK REMINDED THE ITALIANS OF PRIME MINISTER MORO'S STATEMENT AT HELSINKI TO THE EFFECT THAT A NEW ERA IN CZECHOSLOVAK-ITALIAN RELATIONS HAD BEGUN. HE STRESSED THAT WHILE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, AND CULTURAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN GROWING IN RECENT YEARS, THERE WAS NOW A NEED TO SEE THAT POLITICAL RELATIONS CAUGHT UP. AT THE SAME TIME HE POINTED TO THE CZECH DESIRE TO INCREASE ECONOMIC RELATIONS, SPEAKING OF THE POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE DESIRABILITY OF JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN CZECH AND ITALIAN FIRMS.

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3. CONCERNING THE ASAD VISIT TO PRAGUE, CHNOUPEK SAID THAT IN PRIVATE TALKS ASAD HAD TAKEN A SURPRISINGLY MODERATE POSITION ON THE RECENT ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN ACCORD. HOWEVER WHEN IT CAME TO DRAFTING THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE THE SYRIANS INSISTED ON THE INCLUSION OF TOUGH LANGUAGE ON THE SUBJECT. THE CZECHS CAME AWAY FROM THE TALKS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT SAD'S POSITION IS SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO PERMIT HIM TO AGREE TO THE RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WHEN IT IS DUE TO EXPIRE IN NOVEMBER, PROVIDING THERE IS SOME MOVEMENT TOWARD A FURTHER ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. VOLPE

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